



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,619	03/01/2002	Don R. Stevenson	47399.0015	1903
24115	7590	09/13/2004	EXAMINER	
BUCKINGHAM, DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS, LLP			THEXTON, MATTHEW	
50 S. MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	
AKRON, OH 44308			PAPER NUMBER	

1714

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

S.C.

<b>Response to Rule 312 Communication</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/086,619	STEVENSON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Matthew A. Thexton	1714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 05 August 2004 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) ☒ entered.
- b) ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.  
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

See Attached, Examiner's Amendment.

Matthew A. Thexton  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 1714

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Louis F. Wagner on 2004 August 31.

The application has been amended as follows:

Page 19, second occurrence, of the substitute specification has been deleted.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew A. Thexton whose telephone number is 571-272-1125. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasudevan S. Jagannathan can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. A. Thexton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew A. Thexton  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1714